


The Book Reviews of Chester Cuthbert

Authors' surnames beginning with

O



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Oakes, Philip

The God Botherers

American Title: Miracles/Genuine Cases Contact Box 340.

Oakes, Philip

Miracles/Genuine Cases Contact Box 340. New York, The
John Day Company (1971) (1969, Oakes) 239p.

British Title: The God Botherers

Television producer James Paramor is instructed to assemble a religious program aimed at youth. His boss DD (for David Duncan) acquires Paramor's secretary Fiji Bell, who is intent on fame and fortune by any means and is complaisant. Rev. Brian Bonney, whose brother Roger is a mercenary in the Congo, has been directed to assist Paramor, but is more a trouble than a help, placing an advertisement which forms the book's title and receiving thousands of crank letters, only a few of which are legitimate leads to talent, and one miracle Victor Lord, an overweight schoolboy who levitates.

DD's wife Elaine, aware of her husband's infidelities, foresees their inevitable ending in his death, and as a wealthy woman in her own right, hires a private detective to shadow Fiji, whom she acquires as a companion. Paramor is able to make a first program with Fiji and Victor, but Rev. Bonney learns of the capture of his brother and takes Victor to Africa as a means of helping his brother escape, leaving Paramor's ulcer to erupt and the program endangered. Though successful in freeing his brother, Bonney is charged with abducting the boy who has been held by General Tiger who hopes to learn the secret of levitation. Victor is unhappy, and glad to allow himself to levitate into space to escape the General.

This is a well-written and entertaining novel about the television industry, showing its commercialism and vice. The fantasy element is not important, but sufficient to place the novel in the fantasy field. Only a couple of paragraphs touch on the early history of levitation, and in respect mainly to saints.

The Best Short Stories of 1918 and the Yearbook of the American Short Story; Boston, Small, Maynard & Company (1918) 441p.

The anthology comprises the first 332 pages; short biographies of the authors and critical remarks plus tables of short stories and their publishers take up the remainder of the book. On page 431 Merritt's "The People of the Pit" is given one asterisk as a distinguished short story, the same as Abdullah's.

I decided to read all these stories and doing so confirmed my opinion that I appreciate pulp fiction more than the literary kind chosen by O'Brien. I believe that the story by Sinclair Lewis comes closest to pulp fiction and although it is contrived and unconvincing I liked it best.

Since this book is both an anthology and a reference work, I collected its companions for several years until it was edited by a different person. However, I never studied it or others.

Chester D. Cuthbert
June 30, 2003



CUSTOMER
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MANITOBA

O'Brien, Geoffrey

Hardboiled America: The Lurid Years of Paperbacks; Illustrated; New York, Cincinnati, Toronto, London, Melbourne, Van Nostrand Reinhold Company (1981, Publishers); Checklist; Bibliography; Index 144p.

This is a rather superficial, but helpful, survey of the history of the paperback editions of hardboiled fiction from 1929 to 1958. The background comments concerning several interesting writers of the period are interesting and instructive, and it is probably an authoritative guide to the more important books.

Up to the time of typing these notes, it led me to the books of Irving Shulman and James M. Cain and Jack Lait. I shall likely refer to the book often for its comments on the illustrators of interest to Brent Richard, and the summary of the characteristics of the writing of this kind.

HOME STREET



CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

240 HOME STREET • WINNIPEG, MANITOBA R3G 1X3 • (204) 783-5881

May 30, 1982

Dear Home Street Youth:

Just a note to let you know of the fun and exciting youth activities coming your way this Summer.

First - Youth Campout, July 1-4 at
Spruce Woods Provincial Park

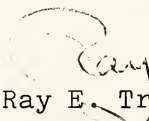
A registration form is enclosed - note its due date: June 20. This is especially for you - the youth of Home Street Church - and your friends. We'll leave the church at 8:30 AM, July 1.

Second - Encounter '82, August 8-15 at
Bird's Hill Provincial Park

This is the Big One! Youth from all across Canada will be joining us for a terrific week. Camp leader will be Steve Mabry from Sacramento, California. If you attended the Anaheim Assembly last year, you may remember him as one of the youth leaders - the one with the guitar. Enclosed is further information on Encounter and an Encounter Registration form. Note its due date: June 30.

Again this year you have something great to work for. Bottles? Car washes? Whatever; it's time to begin. I'll be in touch.

In His Service,


Ray E. Trotter

O'Connor, John

Broadway Racketeers; New York, Horace Liveright, 1928;
(1928, O'Connor); Glossary 255p.

This book reads as if it were written by either a confidence man or a detective, and it appears to me that the best defence against the schemes used by crooks is to be an honest man and never to try to get something for nothing.

In most cases the schemes depend on their perpetrators finding people who have a bit of larceny in them and are willing to join in some action which will profit them, even if it against the law. The schemes are ingenious, and the victims can seldom escape being rocked. Fraudulent charity drives, crooked card and dice games, the badger game with variations, the vanity press, the scandal sheet and many of the other rackets are colloquially described, and the book is interesting, even if not literarily accomplished.

The glossary is a useful reference, though it is likely that the exact meaning of the words has changed by 1981, and some of the terms may now be obsolete.

O'Connor, Richard

Jack London: A Biography; Boston/Toronto, Little, Brown and Company; Illustrations; (1964, author); Bibliography; Index 430p.

Poorly edited or proofread, considering the usual standard of this publisher, this biography is still an interesting contribution to the understanding of the life of Jack London. Its conclusion that Jack's father's identity is unproven does still leave it probably Chaney.

Having read several other biographies, most of the facts were known to me, but the book was useful in refreshing my memory. I agree with the author's conclusion that earlier books conveyed the best work of London, but some of the last books I have not yet read, so I am not sure that they do not represent good work.

London in the short 40 years of his life accomplished far more than I have in the 75 years of mine, and I honor him for the energy and ability he displayed. Thinking back over the 40 books of his I have read, John Barleycorn, Martin Eden, The Valley of the Moon and The Star Rover are probably my favorites. In general, his virility and independence of outlook I found impressive; and his sympathy for the underdog appealed strongly. His consideration and generosity to beginning writers agree with the practice of Frederick Faust; both men did so much for others in spite of their continual debt loads; I wonder again at the similarities of their lives which I wrote of in my little essay on their fantasy fiction, especially as their basic philosophies were so different.

Although I deplore his drinking and womanizing as much as the author does, these activities agree with his fascination for the primitive and basic drives of men, and with his interest in boxing and combativeness in dialogue and against the capitalistic system. The contradictions in his personality, socialistic philosophy against acquisitive capitalistic land ownership, and idealistic socialism against the degrading traffic in women and drink, are mirrored in his books; like Faust, whose romantic fiction isn't nearly so important as London's body of work, neither man produced what I would consider a masterpiece, but both men wrote entertaining and instructive books, and I am grateful to both for their influence on me.

The index and bibliography make this a useful reference.

O'Donnell, Elliot

The Menace of Spiritualism; with a Foreword by Father Bernard Vaughan, S. J.; London, T. Werner Laurie, Ltd.,; (no date) 216p.

The author was probably the most dedicated ghost Hunter in England and shared his experiences in many books. In a special note ahead of the body of the book he says: I desire it to be perfectly clear that the views in it apply to Spiritualism only (not to Psychical Research, which, inasmuch as it touches on the investigation of spontaneous manifestations in haunted houses, etc., is, in my opinion, justifiable) [or his own writings].

Since this book adopts and embraces the attitude of the Catholic Church, it is biased. That there are dangers in any form of fanaticism, no religion which cannot tolerate dissenting views can be fully trusted.

I have read many thoroughly researched sceptical books about Spiritualism but always I have found that they ignore facts which might have changed their views if accepted. During the years since 1848 and extending into the present, materialistic philosophy and scientific method have influenced the majority of thinkers. This influence and the very real frauds practised by commercial mediums have worked against the acceptance of reputable books by great and courageous investigators like Sir Oliver Lodge.

The facts which have been ignored are those which cannot be reconciled with the limited scientific knowledge of our times. In our day science has superseded religion, and Spiritualism has been consistent in claiming that until the facts which it has demonstrated are accepted by science, the philosophical worldview of human beings will not change. Since both science and religion fight for ascendancy, both have derided the claims of Spiritualism.

The sceptics have been patently unfair to Spiritualism if my extensive reading supports this view. If Spiritualism has faults it does not differ from either religion or science.

This book is cautionary, but supports psychic phenomena.

Chester D. Cuthbert
December 25, 2003



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MANITOBA

O'Donnell, Elliot

The Midnight Hearse and More Ghosts; Arranged by H. Ludlam
New York, Taplinger Publishing Company; (1965, author; 1969, Publisher
160p.

This is a second collection derived from books published in
England by the author.

Again, too many legendary cases and too few personally investigated. However, these popular books are useful in acquainting the general public with the facts of strange occurrences.

Chester D. Cuthbert
December 25, 2003



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MANITOBA

O'Donnell, Elliot

The Screaming Skulls and Other Ghosts Stories; arranged by
H. Ludlam; New York, Taplinger Publishing Company (1964, author
1969, publishers) 174p.

I believe these personal investigation and legendary ghost
stories were selected by Ludlam from volumes published in England
by O'donnell. Too many are legendary, but there is no doubt that
O'Donnell witnessed psychic phenomena and was an investigator.

He reminds me of Hans Holzer in his assertions.

Chester D. Cuthbert
December 25, 2003

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The Sorcery Club; London, Sphere Books Ltd. (1974),
(Rider & Son, 1912) (#7221-6505) 249p.

Dennis Wheatley's introduction to this occult novel is a fairly good summary of it, but has minor errors, such as his impression that the San Francisco scenes take place in the early 1930's (an obvious error since the book was originally published in 1912). I agree that O'Donnell knew much about occultism, but his treatment of it in this novel is so hackneyed and exaggerated that it reduces the subject to a farce.

A book conveying Atlantean secrets of magic opens the way to riches for three "pen-pushers" destitute in San Francisco, and having made use of their newly acquired powers to obtain adequate wealth, they go to London, where they drive a firm of stage magicians from business by using the powers of darkness and divination, and while ascendent accumulate great wealth. They are ultimately defeated by their own weaknesses, and destroyed by the powers which have given them their riches while they obeyed the pact they had made.

There are only one or two characters admirable enough to interest the reader: the rest are dregs of humanity, and their actions seem to be dictated by the author's obsession with the weaknesses and depravity of mankind. One cannot be convinced that O'Donnell has any real insight into the great mysteries of occultism, but is fascinated by the phenomena alleged to be brought about by the exercise of magical power. I believe he may have a real belief in these phenomena, but cannot understand their importance or significance, and is therefore unable to convey conviction to the reader. In his treatment of people and magic, O'Donnell uses melodrama and third-rate situations, which create revulsion. I do not wonder at Wheatley's statement that he did not particularly "take" to O'Donnell.

Oesterreich, Traugott K.

Possession and Exorcism among primitive races, in antiquity, the middle ages, and modern times; New York, Causeway Books (1974 Publishers); Index 400p.
(Original title: Possession: Demoniactal & Other.... (1921)

Mainly based on the observations of anthropologists and travellers, but summarizing also the origins of beliefs and the surviving acceptance of demon possession by the Catholic Church, this annotated textbook is acknowledge to have been the basis of the novel The Exorcist by William Peter Blatty. Certainly, it is one of the best sources of information available.

This is a thorough study of the phenomena, giving credit to parapsychology as the main body of scientists investigating them.

The detailed index makes unnecessary any notes, but the author's views are carefully considered and worthwhile despite more modern investigation.

Chester D. Cuthbert
October 26, 1997

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Ogden, C. K.

The Meaning of Psychology; Illustrated; New York and London, Harper & Brothers, Publishers, 1926; Bibliography, Index 326p.

This is a good basic summary of the subject, chapter 16 on the Abnormal being of most interest to me. The book should be studied to obtain its maximum value, but until I decide to pursue such a course, the index will provide me with adequate references to its contents.

Ogden seems to be an eclectic writer, not favoring any particular school of psychology, and the book is balanced. He points out flaws in the behaviorist school and others, and credits Freud with importance, but not supremacy.

O'Hara, John

Hellbox; New York, Avon Publications #679; 1945-7;156p.

Originally published mainly in the New Yorker, these short stories were published as a hard-cover book by Random House, and this pocket book is an unabridged reprint.

Portraying the contemporary scene, these stories are often little more than sketches. They have no more appeal to me than the life they describe, and in some cases their meaning is not clear to me.

O. Henry's Ghost (pseud)

My Tussle with the Devil and Other Stories; New York,
I. M. Y. Company, 1918 197pp

Ahead of the Contents Page is a section commencing on
Page 3 "The Barrage Fire", signed "Parma./June 27th, 1918/
158 Ocean Boulevard/ Atlantic Highlands/ New Jersey."

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#1 is signed "A. Houghton Pratt" and is a statement that these stories came through the Ouija Board as from the spirit of O. Henry. Actually, there are stories, poems, sketches, and miscellaneous items, all on the usual puerile level of such alleged communications. These are of no value, excepting for comparative purposes within this class of writing.

Bleiler lists the author under "O" and I have simply followed his lead.

Olcott, Henry Steel

Inside the Occult: The True Story of Madame H. P. Blavatsky; Philadelphia, Running Press (1975); Index 49lp.
(Original Title: Old Diary Leaves.)

This is a surprisingly well-written account of the origin of the Theosophical Society. Olcott claims acquaintance with Robert Dale Owen, the Mahatmas known to Blavatsky, the Eddy Brothers, many journalists, the other Fellows of the TPS, and resided for years in the same house with HPB.

A total of 200 letters were exchanged with Stainton Moses, whose real name was Moseyn or Mostyn. One letter, giving details of Moses' early life, changes of occupation every four or five years, and ill health, with impossibility or returning to the ministry and preaching, development of mediumship, etc., makes this book important. Information about C. C. Massey is also relevant.

My impression of Olcott is that he and Blavatsky had adopted the habit of narrating marvels and miracles as a means of attracting the attention to their writings and teachings, just as most "sacred" writings and biographies of religious leaders do. It is impossible for commonsense to accept that Blavatsky with her powers should have been the impotent victim of circumstances such as poverty after her first arrival in New York; so I discount her alleged magical ability, and the accounts given by Olcott.

The Brittans or Brittens, for whom Olcott wrote under his own name and also under the name Amherst years before he met HPB, many mediums and important characters in occultism are mentioned. This is an important reference, but to be discounted as to its alleged phenomena.

Olcott, Henry S.

People from the Other World; Profusely illustrated by Alfred Kappes, and T. W. Williams; Hartford, Conn., American Publishing Company, 1875 (1874, Olcott); Preface; The Katie King Affair; The Compton Transfiguration; Bibliography 492p.

Olcott has generally been dismissed as a credulous dupe of Madame Blavatsky, but I am more inclined to classify him as an earlier Arthur Conan Doyle, whose appetite for marvels was fed by her and by mediumistic phenomena and by respect for the researches of Owen, Hare, Crookes and Wallace, to the point that, doubting his own ability to detect fraud, he was still determined to do his best to describe what he thought he saw. There is no doubt that he respected authority and prestige: he accepted as gospel the far-fetched stories of Madame Blavatsky, never suspected her of duplicity or collusion with mediums, or of playing tricks on him (although in his Old Diary Leaves he did say that she might have cast a "glamour" over him.

But Olcott writes well, and he reasons well. He was familiar with the literature of spiritualism, he was known as an investigator, and although doubting his own competence he worked hard to place on paper the results of his investigations, and the illustrations prepared at his request are no small part of the value of this book.

Despite his doubts, Olcott, in his efforts to present the facts as he saw them, witnesses to phenomena which, as he insists, it is hard to believe were fraudulent. He is as fair as possible in presenting his evidence; he affirms the genuine phenomena of the Eddys; the Holmeses; Mrs. Compton; he shows that Eliza White's testimony cannot be relied on, and that her "exposure" of the Holmeses was not necessarily evidence of their fraudulent tactics, and I think it may be necessary to revise entirely the verdict that history has given against Olcott. He was credulous and incompetent, but he admitted his limitations and was anxious to have his results examined by more competent investigators.

I give this volume a higher value than it seems to have been accorded.

How mistaken my appraisal of this book is can be seen by reference to Home's devastating review of it in his book Lights and Shadows of Spiritualism. It should be a lesson to me to study books rather than merely to read them.

Olden, Marc

Poe Must Die: A Novel; New York, Charter Books (#67420)
(1978, author) 466p.

Although marketed as fiction with the author shown as a 1978 Edgar Nominee, this is an occult fantasy.

An English prize-fighter named Figg, whose young wife has died from the machinations of a black magician, is asked by Charles Dickens to seek Poe who knows the widow of a student of rare magical treatises because these are sought by the black magician in his quest to defeat and rule Asmodeus and other demons. Poe has fallen in love with the widow, who is by fake spiritualistic seances made to believe that the body of her husband can be revived if she will pay one hundred thousand dollars. The black magician Jonathan goes under the name Paracelsus, using his paramor to try to make Poe believe that he is seeing the ghost of his wife Virginia. Poe is a skeptic, but is shaken by the phenomena which Jonathan produces by placing Poe under the influence of drink and drugs.

At first Poe is repelled by the raw power and earthiness of Figg, but they become friends, saving each other's lives when imperilled in the criminal slums of New York. The author has apparently read of conditions there at that time, and describes the filth and sordidness, particularly among the poor, in disgusting detail.

Among their friends is P. T. Barnum, whose character and actions are outlined. Poe's financial embarrassments are delineated, Mrs. Clemm is introduced, and Poe's weakness and strength described. The action takes place between January and April, 1848, with Poe fearing insanity, physically weak, and menaced by various people whom he has made his enemies either by his pen or by his personal arrogance. Figg protects him, but is guided by Poe's mental powers as a detective and reasoner.

Not very well written, this novel concentrates on the more sordid aspects of American urban life, and the brutal violence exceeds anything I have read in connection with biographies of Poe. Although the book is a collector's item in connection with Poe, it is not an important insight to his life.

Figg and Jonathan are the most interesting characters, and the author's insights concerning occultism may be of value.

Oleck, Jack

Messalina; New York, Lyle Stuart (1959, Oleck) 307p.

This historical novel concentrates on Messalina, showing that her path to power was strewn with betrayals of any who failed to serve her aims, and that she finally plotted the killing of Claudius. With even her mother driven to madness, Messalina was executed by order of Claudius, leaving only the unsatisfied ambitions of her lovers, the few who survived.

Oleck says that her first lover, the Jew Isaac, remained her sole long-term attachment, and she was unable to overcome his religious scruples and attach him to her cause.

This is a portrait of decadent Rome which supplements Graves' two books, expanding Messalina's role from her girlhood to her death, but barely touching on the political aspects of her association with Claudius.

Reasonably well-written and researched, this is better than Vivian Crockett's sketchy novel, but it is still a depressing story.

Article Thirty-two; New York, Macmillan, 1931; 385p.

I found this the most interesting of the author's novels that I have read, possibly because I had only recently read Kerruish's "The Undying Monster".

The latter book is the study, from the occult point-of-view, of a family curse. Oliver's novel is a study of the curse which seems to afflict the families of Anglican priests; and is written in the light of psychiatry. If a psychological novel can be considered a science fiction novel when it lacks any element of fantasy, this would possibly qualify for a fantastic fiction library. At present, however, I would view it as a religious novel and deny it a place in a fantasy collection.

Briefly, the central point under consideration is whether an Anglican priest should marry. Article 32 of the 39 Articles of Religion of the Church of England allows freedom of choice. This novel's conclusion is that priests should not marry, but should carry on the tradition of celibacy enjoined by the Catholic Church. The argument is worked out persuasively and interestingly; and Oliver's life-long belief that religion is "in the blood" of priests, is again illustrated.

Although I find it difficult to accept Oliver's evaluation of the strong psychological effect of formalized religious practice, I do not question his own belief in it. He seems to give it almost magical power.

In Oliver's novels, the human weaknesses and vices of priests and ministers are not disguised. I find these difficult to reconcile with the mystical vision of God which ecclesiastics should possess as motivation for their vocation. Perhaps these frailties are normal because of the necessary exposure of priests to social intercourse, and my criticism is unjustified because as a comparative recluse, I am not subjected to such temptations.

Oliver, John Rathbone

Foursquare: The Story of a Fourfold Life; New York,
The Macmillan Company, 1929 305p.

This is the autobiography of a man who was chief medical officer for the Supreme Courts in the city of Baltimore; a practising psychiatrist; an academic; and an Anglican priest.

It appears from this book that Oliver's other writings, though ostensibly novels, are based on his own life; and that in spite of trials and tribulations that would have ruined a less conscientious spirit, Oliver triumphed to become one of the most useful of men.

His comments on many of his experiences are wise and illuminating; I am sending as many as I can of his books to Dave McClintock.

Oliver, John Rathbone

The Good Shepherd: A Novel of Tyrol; New York, Frederick A Stokes Company, 1932; New Preface and Revisions by the Author (Originally published as by "John Roland") 324p.

Charles Southerland Edwards, studying medicine in Austria (as the author did), applies for a position as laboratory assistant to Professor Schroeder, who refuses his aid because of an old servant's animosity towards Edwards. Schroeder supplies Edwards with surgical instruments, drugs, and advice when the latter decides to become district physician in a remote village where there is much tuberculosis.

Edwards practises without a license, and is in constant fear that he will be reported to the authorities if he makes any mistakes. His poverty and fears cause a partial nervous breakdown, from which he is rescued by the widow of his old friend, with whom he has corresponded since his friend's death, and with whom, her identity unknown to him, he falls in love when she visits him, ostensibly as a guest of Schroeder's and inquiring on the Professor's behalf.

The manners and customs of the Tyrolese, the conditions under which doctors were expected to work, the mistakes they make and the hazards and responsibilities they must assume, are well portrayed.

The book's message is to encourage people to forget their past mistakes, to live each day as well as they can, and build for the future. The mental breakdowns of the schoolmaster and Edwards are described in sufficient detail to warn observers of similar cases of the symptoms.

Oliver, John Rathbone

Psychiatry and Mental Health (The Hale Lectures 1932);
New York & London, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1933 (1932) 330p

Dedicated to parish priests, seminarians, ministers and social workers, this is an excellent summary of principles and case histories of mental problems. Couched as much as possible in non-technical language, it devotes adequate treatment to the processes which lead to mental illness, and particularly to the sexual origin of many because of ignorance or misinformation about the subject.

I would recommend this as a handbook for anyone.

Oliver, John Rathbone

Rock and Sand; New York, The Macmillan Company, 1930
524p.

This is the story of the invasion of a French rural district of Quebec by American summer vacationers. The title is the theme of the book, indicating that the simple acceptance of a hard life by the habitants is stronger than the artificial civilisation which leaves the city dweller defenceless when calamity strikes.

Oliver apparently puts faith in religious miracles rather than in common sense or science; and indicates that only when the individual is at peace with God can he bear the burdens of selfless love and duty.

An American brother and sister are loved by an orphaned French brother and sister, the latter sacrificing everything for the sake of the former.

Oliver apparently lived amid the surroundings he describes and portrays the life and character of the people sympathetically.

Oliver, John Rathbone

Victim and Victor; New York, The Macmillan Company, 1956
(1928) 435p.

Although this novel has the caduceus and hands gripping on the spine, it is actually a study of a priest who has been deposed and spends his life trying to be reinstated by his bishop. With the assistance of a psychiatrist, he befriends other unfortunates like himself, and seems to have an understanding of how their minds work because he can imaginatively place himself in their shoes. The story is told by the psychiatrist.

There is practically no romantic interest in the book, and I think that Oliver may have been a wise kind of homosexual who never required physical expression of a sexual nature apart from what may have been available to him as a bachelor. I have on hand two novels of his which may throw some light on this aspect of his personality; I must try to read them.

I am sending this book to Dave McClintock, as it will be of much more interest to him than to me. I found it more interesting than "Fear" which I must have read 35 years or so ago.

O'Meara, ?

The Curé of Ars; Ave Maria Notre Dame Indiana, Publishers
196p

Some child ripped out all pages preceding page 7 of this book and scribbled with a pencil on the insides of the covers and the end pages, but my interest in the subject of the book led to my buying it.

This version of his life places the most lengthy account of the poltergeist phenomena which plagued him for years, but is in other respects usually confirming the main events of his life.

His ability to know facts and characters of people met for the first time when they sought his advice leads me to feel that he possessed psychic faculties. These might have contributed to the poltergeist phenomena, and to his tolerant acceptance of his belief that the Devil was always after him.

His self-abasement and insistence on poverty and depriving himself of comfort were carried to absurd extremes, but are a source of the wonder and awe he inspired in all who knew him.

I have started reading the last biography I have of him. I believe it is based on more thorough research of primary sources than most of the other biographies I've read.

Chester D. Cuthbert
July 20, 1998

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CELEBRATING
THE FIRST QUARTER CENTURY
1962-1987
LE PREMIER QUART DE SIÈCLE
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FirstCity Trust

O'Neill, Joseph

Day of Wrath, London, Victor Gollancz Ltd., 1936; 288pp.

A forecast of war commencing on May 13, 1952, Germany and Japan against the rest of the white race. Germany begins by annihilating Russia; this leaves Japan free to attack Australia, Africa, and defend herself from America. England is overwhelmed by poison gas and thermite; mob rule threatens, food supplies are quickly exhausted; and in less than a week, when China turns against Japan, the war is over, leaving most of the civilized world destroyed.

Dr. Norman Cloud tells the story in the first person. He loves Judith Bowesman, who has been hypnotised into loving and serving Nellin, pacifist leader who is made prime minister in an effort to persuade the Yellow Peril against invasion. Nellin's refusal to fight simply encourages attack; and Judith assassinates him, then flees to find Cloud. Failing, she surrenders herself, but is released to serve as a nurse when this necessity becomes of more importance than her crime. Cloud's inadequate hospital is wiped out by thermite gas and he is left free to search for Judith, but she dies of gas after declaring her love for him.

Well written and graphic in its description of devastation, this book can be compared with "Lest Ye Die" by Cicely Hamilton. Either book should have been warning enough to prevent WW2, but failed.

The Alcatraz Incident; New York, David McKay Company,
Inc. (1971, O'Neil) 217p.

200 young people, the oldest 23, take over the abandoned Alcatraz Prison, sending the two guards to shore. They have taken provisions, equipment and dynamite and send forth an ultimatum to the government to obtain 10,000,000 signatures to a petition to stop the Vietnam war, or they will blow themselves up as a protest.

The authorities capitulate, but are unable to obtain more than three million signatures before the young people have, by sex and drugs and internal dissension, started a fire in which several are injured and one killed. The assistant leader is sensible in pointing out that the leader Nikki was rebelling regardless of consequences, and actually contemplated suicide; had captured the daughter of a Senator to hold as hostage, not realizing that he and his assistant would fall in love with her and that this would awaken his realization of personal consequences, that he would lose his friends, and that any placing of human or personal thoughts above the purpose of the holdout would endanger its success.

The sex orgy which takes place when the youths are entrenched and have nothing else to do to expend their energies; the boredom accompanying idleness, and the drug-induced irresponsibility, culminate in the fire which starts a "rabbit" and hunters motorcycle race, in which "rabbit" is fatally injured. The Senator's daughter plots to try and save the "rabbit" by sending him in a boat under its motor power, but alone, to the mainland for medical attention, but he dies. Nikki has warned that any yielding would invite invasion, and when this follows, he blows up the island, killing everyone.

An interesting youth protest novel, but, excepting for the situation presented, not fantasy.

Onions, Oliver

The Debit Account; New York, George H. Doran Company
(1913, Publishers) 296p.

I suspect that this is the second novel in the trilogy which commenced with In Accordance with the Evidence and concluded with The Story of Louie. I had read the other two books years ago, and had probably given up hope of finding this third volume.

Told in the first person by Jim Jeffries, it is the story of his marriage to a girl whom he loved physically and emotionally, though he respected more Louie, a girl who had an illegitimate child by an unknown father, but whom he did not love, though fully aware that she was hopelessly in love with him. She warned him that he should admit to his wife that he had murdered with justification a young rouse, but he did not do so until it was too late, and after he died as a consequence of a fall years earlier, she committed suicide when she learned the truth.

Although I had forgotten the contents of the earlier books, I found this an engrossing novel, and it inspired in me a wish to re-read the other two volumes. I shall not do so until I forget this one enough to enable me to re-read it in its proper sequence.

Onions, Oliver

The Exception; London, Methuen & Co. Ltd. (1910, 3rd Ed. 1911
331p. plus catalog

This novel, told from the author omniscient viewpoint, details the efforts of Berice Beckwith to keep secret her having had a love affair with a subaltern who died in India while engaged to marry a girl known to Berice. At first, feeling unworthy to marry, she is wooed by a businessman, confesses to him that she had previously loved but provided no details, and becomes his wife.

Despite her efforts, several people become aware of the affair and this becomes a disturbing element in her marriage. Her early lover has died, but apparently left information which exposed her.

As is usual with the author, he describes the reactions of the people who know, particularly the husband who fears that his name will be impaired.

The author who was also an aestist presents philosophical views as the story progresses. He hints rather than dramatizes but one chapter is almost overdramatic.

Chester D. Cuthbert
February 21, 2005

INTEREST RATES

-08-05 (* DENOTES LATEST CHANGE)

DEMAND ACCOUNTS (890804)				RSPS (890624)	FIXED RATE LOANS (8903)
SIC	4.000			CT SRRSP	RSP - 1 YR 14.
A	0.000	SAV	9.000	9.250	RSP - 2 YR 14.
P SAVINGS	8.250	SAV - BLEND	-	-	INSTAL - 6 MOS 15.
P-BLENDED	-				INSTAL - 12-48 MOS 15.
LID GOLD SAVINGS	8.250	RSP CDS			SUPERLOAN 14.
PERRATE	9.250	60-89 DAYS		9.750	
PER T-BILL		90-119 DAYS		10.000	FLOAT RATE LOANS (8908)
5,000- 9,999	9.400	91 DAY T-BILL		10.000	PRIME DEMAND (MIN) 13.5
10,000-24,999	9.660	120-179 DAYS		10.000	POWERLINE
25,000-49,999	10.670	180-269 DAYS		10.500	FULLY SECURED 13.5
50,000-99,999	11.290	270-364 DAYS		10.500	UNSEC OVER \$2499 14.5
100,000 PLUS	11.800				UNSEC UNDER \$2500 19.7
ILY INT - MONTHLY	8.000	CERTS: CT SRRSP			LNS ON SEC PRIME + 0.5
SP	8.250	1989	10.000	10.250	MISC DEMAND PRIME + 1.0
SP - BLENDED	-	1990	10.750	11.000	US BASE LN 11.0
WYERS TRUST	8.500	1991	10.500	10.750	
\$ - SUPERRATE		1992	10.250	10.500	RESIDENTIAL MTG (89080)
UNDER \$3,000	5.000	1993	10.000	10.250	6 MOS OPEN 13.0
OVER \$2,999	6.250	1994	10.000	10.250	1 YR 12.7
		1995-99		10.000	2 YR 12.5
		(SRRSP-ONLY CMPD CERTS)			3 YR 11.7
CDS ** (890616)					4 YR 11.7
-59 DAYS	9.500				5 YR 11.7
-89 DAYS	9.750	ERKS (890624)			10 YR 12.7
-119 DAYS	10.000	SAV	9.000		PRIME HOMEOWNER LOAN 13.5
0-179 DAYS	10.000	SAV - BLENDED	-		
0-269 DAYS	10.500				COMMERCIAL MTGES (89080)
0-364 DAYS	10.500	ERKS ANN. CMPD INT CERTS			FIXED RATE-NEW&RENEW
SHOUT 30-364 DAYS	3.000	1 YR		10.750	6 MOS 12.7
		2 YR		10.500	1 YR 12.7
ANNUAL INV CERTS (890624)		3 YR		10.250	2 YR 12.5
YR	10.750	4 YR		10.000	3 YR 11.7
YR	10.500	5 YR		10.000	4 YR 11.7
YR	10.250				5 YR 11.7
YR	10.000	RRIF (890624)			
YR	10.000	SAV - NEW	9.000		FLOAT RATE-NEW&RENEW
20 YR	10.000	SAV - BLENDED	-		1-5 YR CT PRIME + 0.2
		CERTS MATURING:			
MI ANNUAL	MINUS 0.250	1989		10.000	MASTERCARD (89061)
TLY	MINUS 0.375	1990		10.750	SUPERCARGE 16.4
S (MIN \$5000)	MINUS 0.500	1991		10.500	REGULAR (CDN\$, US\$) 19.7
PD (5 YR MAX)	MINUS 0.500	1992		10.250	GOLD (CDN\$, US\$) 19.7
		1993		10.000	UNDER \$2500 19.7
CS - USE ANN RATES		1994		10.000	OVER \$2499 16.5
		1995-2009		10.000	
CASH N CARRY (890624)					SALES FINANCE LOANS (89042)
PAYMENTS		FTAS (890101)			6 MONTHS 15.0
ANGE A S Q M		19-30 YR		10.000	12-60 MONTHS 16.5
N 10.750 10.500 10.375 10.250					RETAIL LEASE (89032)
TRLY 10.000 9.875					FULL RECOURSE 14.0
-MOS 9.750					LIMITED RECOURSE 14.2
S 9.500					NON-RECOURSE 15.7
					WHOLESALE LEASE-FIXD(89032)
FOR AMTS. OVER \$100,000					UNDER \$3 MILLION 14.0
REFER EMC BULLETIN BOARD					OVER \$3 MILLION 14.0

Onions, Oliver

Ghosts in Daylight; London, Chapman & Hall, 1924; 236p.

Of these five stories only four were reprinted in the Collection of the author's ghost stories, the one omitted is "The Dear Dryad". I do not consider it a ghost story anyway and I cannot understand why "The Honey in the Wall" is, either or why its title bears on the story at all.

I shall have to read more of the collected stories in an effort to understand the author's attitude towards the supernatural.

Chester D. Cuthbert
March 22, 2005

GUARANTEED INVESTMENT CERTIFICATES (min \$1000.00)

1 year	11.00	
2 years	10.50	
3 years	10.25	
4 years	10.25	
5 years	10.25	
6-20 years	10.00	
Semi-annual interest minus		0.250%
Quarterly interest minus		0.375%
Monthly interest (min \$5000.00) minus		0.500%
Compound interest (max 5 yrs) minus		0.500%

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30-59 days	9.50
60-89 days	9.75
90-119 days	10.00
120-179 days	10.00
180-269 days	10.50
270-364 days	10.50
Cashout 30-364 days	3%

REGISTERED RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN

Savings Section	9.00	T-Bill (min \$5000.00)	10.00
Compound Certificates maturing in: (min \$500.00)			
1989	10.00		
1990	11.00		
1991	10.50		
1992	10.25		
1993	10.25		
1994	10.25		
RSP Short Term (min \$2000.00)			
60-89 days	9.75		
90-119 days	10.00		
120-179 days	10.00		
180-269 days	10.50		
270-364 days	10.50		

DEMAND ACCOUNTS

Superrate under	\$3000.00	8.00	over \$2999.00	9.25
Basic Chequing		4.00		
Super T-Bill	\$5000 - \$9999		9.40	
	\$10000 - \$24999		9.55	
	\$25000 - \$49999		10.67	
	\$50000 - \$99999		11.30	
	\$100000 Plus		11.80	
US Superrate under	\$3000	5.00	over \$2999.00	6.25

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2 year	14.50
Installment	15.00
	15.50
Super Loan (min \$10000.00)	14.50
Prime Demand Rate	13.50
CSB Loans at minimum rate	

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4 years	11.75
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Onions, Oliver

Good Boy Seldom: A Romance of Advertisement; London, Methuen
& Co. Ltd.; 2nd Edition, October, 1911 382p.

The title was a nickname for James Enderby Wace, a seeker of money success who would today be called a sociopath being without conscience in living totally for himself.

He begins by fleecing his schoolmates, then his business partner; when his grandmother leaves him a large inheritance he tries to take his sister's smaller inheritance from her; falling in love with an actress he deserts his fiancée; becoming a Member of Parliament he uses his prestige to promote worthless business organizations.

My copy of this book is ex-library, badly soiled and worn with the cover reinforced so must have been read by many people. It is closely printed but is well worth a careful reading.

Chester D. Cuthbert
March 22, 2005



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Onions, Oliver

The Hand of Kornelius Voyt; London, Hamish Hamilton, 1939
318p.

I read this book so many years ago that I had completely forgotten it, but it is well worth a second reading.

The title character is a deaf-mute who is wealthy and adopts an orphan who narrates the story in the first person. He grows quickly beyond normal and enters into sexual relations with one of the household maids at his thirteen year age.

He becomes aware that Voyt appears to become aware of events by extra-sensory means, but insists on defying rules and enjoying forbidden activities despite his tutor whom he considers a ~~moron~~ *moron*. The tutor, a German whose fiancée is in Germany, writes often to keep in touch, and does his best to teach the narrator.

When Voyt is old and incapacitated, the narrator draws up the cheques to cover expenses and is investigated by the bankers who suspect forgery. The narrator discovers that life is harder after his benefactor dies.

Like many of this author's stories, its conclusion leaves the reader wondering at the ultimate fate of the narrator. The story is very original, however.

Chester D. Cuthbert
March 22, 2005

INTEREST RATES

89-09-25 (* DENOTES LATEST CHANGE)

DEMAND ACCOUNTS (890915)				RSPS (890923)		FIXED RATE LOANS (890325)	
BASIC		4.000		CT	SRRSP	RSP - 1 YR	14.500
PCA		0.000	SAV	9.000	9.250	RSP - 2 YR	14.500
SFP SAVINGS		8.250	SAV - BLENDED	-	-	INSTAL - 6 MOS	15.000
SFP-BLENDED		-				INSTAL - 12-48 MOS	15.500
SOLID GOLD SAVINGS		8.250	RSP CDS			SUPERLOAN	14.500
SUPERRATE		9.250	60-89 DAYS		9.750		
SUPER T-BILL			90-119 DAYS		10.000	FLOAT RATE LOANS (890802)	
5,000- 9,999		9.400	91 DAY T-BILL		10.000	PRIME DEMAND (MIN)	13.500
10,000-24,999		9.600	120-179 DAYS		10.000	POWERLINE	
25,000-49,999		10.700	180-269 DAYS		10.500	FULLY SECURED	13.500
50,000-99,999		11.350	270-364 DAYS		10.500	UNSEC OVER \$2499	14.500
100,000 PLUS		11.860				UNSEC UNDER \$2500	19.750
DAILY INT - MONTHLY		8.000	CERTS:	CT	SRRSP	LNS ON SEC PRIME +	0.500
HOSP		8.250	1989	10.000	10.250	MISC DEMAND PRIME +	1.000
HOSP - BLENDED		-	1990	11.000	11.250	US BASE LN	11.000
LAWYERS TRUST		8.500	1991	10.500	10.750		
US \$ - SUPERRATE			1992	10.250	10.500	RESIDENTIAL MTG (890923)	
UNDER \$3,000		5.000	1993	10.250	10.500	6 MOS OPEN	13.000
OVER \$2,999		6.250	1994	10.250	10.500	1 YR	12.750
			1995-99		10.000	2 YR	12.250
			(SRRSP-ONLY CMPD CERTS)			3 YR	11.750
CDS ** (890616)						4 YR	11.750
30-59 DAYS		9.500				5 YR	11.750
60-89 DAYS		9.750	ERKS (890923)			10 YR	12.000
90-119 DAYS		10.000	SAV		9.000	PRIME HOMEOWNER LOAN	13.500
120-179 DAYS		10.000	SAV - BLENDED		-		
180-269 DAYS		10.500				COMMERCIAL MTGES (890923)	
270-364 DAYS		10.500	ERKS ANN. CMPD INT CERTS			FIXED RATE-NEW&RENEW	
CASHOUT 30-364 DAYS		3.000	1 YR		11.000	6 MOS	12.750
			2 YR		10.500	1 YR	12.750
ANNUAL INV CERTS (890923)			3 YR		10.250	2 YR	12.250
1 YR		11.000	4 YR		10.250	3 YR	11.750
2 YR		10.500	5 YR		10.250	4 YR	11.750
3 YR		10.250				5 YR	11.750
4 YR		10.250	RRIF (890923)				
5 YR		10.250	SAV - NEW		9.000	FLOAT RATE-NEW&RENEW	
6-20 YR		10.000	SAV - BLENDED		-	1-5 YR CT PRIME +	0.250
			CERTS MATURING:				
SEMI ANNUAL	MINUS	0.250	1989		10.000	MASTERCARD (890611)	
QRTLY	MINUS	0.375	1990		11.000	SUPERCARGE	16.400
MOS (MIN \$5000)	MINUS	0.500	1991		10.500	REGULAR (CDN\$, US\$)	19.750
CMPD (5 YR MAX)	MINUS	0.500	1992		10.250	GOLD (CDN\$, US\$)	
			1993		10.250	UNDER \$2500	19.750
BPCS - USE ANN RATES			1994		10.250	OVER \$2499	16.500
			1995-2009		10.000		
CASH N CARRY (890923)						SALES FINANCE LOANS (890421)	
PAYMENTS			FTAS (890101)			6 MONTHS	15.000
CHANGE A S Q M			19-30 YR		10.000	12-60 MONTHS	16.500
ANN 11.000 10.750 10.625 10.500						RETAIL LEASE (890325)	
QRTLY 10.000 9.875						FULL RECOURSE	14.000
BI-MOS 9.750						LIMITED RECOURSE	14.250
MOS 9.500						NON-RECOURSE	15.750
						WHOLESALE LEASE-FIXD(890323)	
**FOR AMTS. OVER \$100,000						UNDER \$3 MILLION	14.000
REFER EMC BULLETIN BOARD						OVER \$3 MILLION	14.000

Onions, Oliver

The Tower of Oblivion; London, Hodder and Stoughton Ltd.
1921 424p.
New York, The Macmillan Company, 1921 437p.
(two bindings: gray Cloth and dark green with yellow letter-
ing)

Narrated in the first person by a 55 year old successful novelist about the author of three novels who is living from age to youth and who expects to die at the age of 16, this detailed fantasy reminded me of Robert Hichens for extensive prose and of Algernon Blackwood for lack of any action.

However, a woman painter who has loved this wonderful man from childhood despite his lack of romantic interest in her at last determines to marry him at any cost to look after him. The narrator describes his life down to the age of 19 when he falls in love with a 17 year old beauty and elppes with her defying her family. The painter accepts defeat but refuses an offer of marriage from the narrator. The lovers died together ~~in~~ 1920 although the man was born in 1875 and the girl in 1903. *in*

The author wrote many experimental novels, all of them of interest.

Chester D. Cuthbert
January 27, 2005

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Orlo

Buck Up: A Few Brief Suggestions for Those in Trouble;
Los Angeles, F. A. Harrington, no date (circa 1921) 60p.

This is an elementary book on positive thinking, along the lines of Ralph Waldo Trine. He says that two thirds of the world's population believes in reincarnation, and that belief in the western world is growing.

There is nothing in this book that hasn't been said often by others.

Orrmont, Arthur

Love Cults & Faith Healers; New York, Ballantine Books
#F 456 K (1961, author) 192p.

Robert Mathews; John Humphrey Noyes; James J. Strang; John Dowie; Benjamin Fanklin Purnell; Aimee Semple McPherson; Guy and Edna Ballard; and Krishna Venta are the eight leaders of cults in America dealt with in this volume. All were successful in acquiring mastery over many people who considered them divinely inspired.

The final two pages of this book are important in pointing to books dealing with other, and sometimes more publicized, similar characters.

These sketches are well written and fascinating. Religious fanaticism is an important factor in the lives of many, and this book points out the dangers.

Chester D. Cuthbert
June 4, 2000



CUSTOMER
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MANITOBA

Orton, J. Louis

Hypnotism Made Practical; Revised and augmented (Eighth) Edition; London, Thorsons Publishers (circa 1949); Glossary 170p.

The author claims to have treated 30,000 people in 35 years of practice, and gives instances of hypnosis by telephone and radio. The British Department of Transport accepted his idea to instruct by hypnosis safe driving techniques.

This book is very well written and promotes the use of hypnosis in all areas of personal and social well-being, including health. He wrote other books along similar lines.

This is a good introductory study.

Chester D. Cuthbert
February 10, 2001



CUSTOMER
CENTRE

MANITOBA

Orvis, Kenneth

Night Without Darkness; Toronto/Montreal, McClelland
and Stewart Limited (1965, Orvis) 224p.

Primarily a secret agent novel, involving a scientist abducted by the Communists who has manufactured a "paralysis mist", there are a few instances of the use of the mist during the course of the story, but otherwise it does not qualify as fantasy and science fiction.

The story is of little importance, being merely the description of the action involved in re-capturing and turning over to the allies the scientist.

Although reasonably well-written, this novel has not sufficient value or interest to be important in any category.

Osborn, Arthur W.

The Axis and the Rim: The Quest for Reality in a Modern Setting; London, Vincent Stuart Ltd, 1963, Quest Book; Index 203p

I should have read this book before reading his The Meaning of Personal Existence, but I did not find this book until more recently. It is equally profound and requires study because he often refers to East Indian books not read by me.

Osborn has proven that materialism cannot provide answers to the fundamental problems of life, and the limitations of science can do little more than assemble facts for consideration.

The index is helpful.

Chester D. Cuthbert
June 12, 2002



CUSTOMER CENTRE

MANITOBA

Osborn, Arthur W.

The Future is Now: The Significance of Precognition; New Hyde Park, New York, University Books (1961, author); Introduction by Eileen J. Garrett; Foreword by the author; Index 254p.

Wheaton, Illinois, The Theosophical Publishing House; Quest Book edition, 1967 254p.

This is the only book known to me which is devoted wholly to the subject, giving examples and a survey of all the philosophical attempts to explain the facts.

Osborn's wife was a psychic and he was himself the subject of precognitive experiences. He is a lucid writer and thoroughly familiar with the literature of psychic research.

Osborn's earlier book The Superphysical dealt with this and many other parapsychological problems and is less technical than Richet and Osty who gave many examples in books published in 1923.

Although Osborn was personally convinced of human survival of death, his books admitted that our ignorance leaves us short of establishing scientific proof. However, he believes the evidence sufficient to require serious study of reincarnation.

Chester D. Cuthbert
June 2, 2002



CUSTOMER CENTRE

MANITOBA

Osborn, Arthur W.

The Meaning of Personal Existence: In the Light of Paranormal Phenomena, The Doctrine of Reincarnation and Mystical States of Consciousness; With a Foreword by Ian Stevenson, M.D.; Wheaton, Illinois, The Theosophical Publishing House, 1967; London, Sidgwick and Jackson, 1966; Bibliography, Index 232p.

This is a profound book, summarizing the author's philosophy after a lifetime of study and experience. He admits the limitation of human knowledge but gives tentative acceptance of reincarnation and survival. His step by step exposition is enlightening.

I have commenced reading another of his books which I should have read ahead of this one.

I am pretty well in agreement with his views. Certainly he knows more than I do and expounds reasonably.

Chester D. Cuthbert
June 7, 2002



CUSTOMER CENTRE

MANITOBA

Osborn, Arthur W.

The Superphysical: A review of the evidence for continued existence, reincarnation, and mystical states of consciousness;; Foreword by Professor W. H. Maxwell Telling; List of Books; Index London, Ivor Nicholson & Watson, 1937 350p.

If I were capable of writing this book it would summarize all I have assimilated in sixty years of reading thousands of books.

Part One dealing with normal phenomena analyses four systems of philosophy, concluding that materialism cannot be accepted and that there exists a supernormal and eternal universe of life which as the mystics who have glimpsed it say is indescribable but very wonderful. Two nights ago I saw a TV program on near death experiences in which a doctor proved that patients experiencing it have no functioning of the heart, but can recall events afterward which demonstrate that consciousness is not controlled by the brain but exist independently of the physical body. The skeptical psychic researcher Sue Blackmore offered her explanation against accepting that doctor's view, but I do.

Part two deals with supernormal phenomena including reincarnation and suggests methods of attaining enlightenment. Both early and concluding sections of this book require close study and are not easy to read. However, this book should be placed in any good library for reference. The index makes unnecessary any detailed notes, but Osborn says that Carrington issued a publication which proved that the controls of mediums possess different physical responses to tests from those given by the mediums themselves.

This book should be retained for reference.

Chester D. Cuthbert
March 7, 2002



CUSTOMER
CENTRE

MANITOBA

Osborn, Evangelist T. L.

Healing the Sick and Casting Out Devils: The Message and Ministry of a Bible Disciple Now Living: Christ's Power of Attorney Today; The Faith Adventures of the Author; Tulsa, Oklahoma, (1950) Portraits of author and wife 286p.

The early part of this book reprints several pamphlets the author published separately. The latter part summarizes these and provides a short autobiography of the author, notes from his diary, testimonials from people healed during his evangelistic preachings, and an appeal for others to spread his message that Jesus as our Saviour can instantly banish sin, sickness and all tribulations if we acknowledge him.

The early part of the book is so repetitious that I was bored almost to the extent of quitting reading the rest of the volume. Before I had finished it, however, my vast reading of modern healing miracles from other sources enabled me to confirm the reality or at least the possibility that this book tells truth.

Many cases are narrated of diseases for which modern medicine has found no cure being instantly or quickly cured by faith, including multiple sclerosis, terminal cancer, blindness, deafness, arthritis, and congenital defects. Everything narrated can be confirmed by cases reported of faith healing from other sources.

That modern medicine and the modern church, influenced by the materialistic teaching of today, have failed to recognize and act on the clear teaching of Jesus, is demonstrated by the author's success in individual and mass healings.

This book is worth careful study and emulation, despite its obvious Christian propaganda. In fact, its chief fault is that it ignores the possibility of any but Christians availing themselves of God's mercy.

Chester D. Cuthbert
December 19, 1997

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December 19, 1997

Dear Ray,

Because you are more familiar than I with the New Testament I urge you to read this book carefully and see if you can follow the author's example and heal people.

As my notes on the book indicate, the repetitions discouraged me, but I am thankful that I persevered and finished reading it.

I think that my extensive reading may have been intended by a higher power to enable me to confirm from other sources the possibility that this book contains no exaggerations or falsehood.

Our recent discussion on the power of faith leads me to think that your greater knowledge might enable you to do things that my relative ignorance denies me.

That the healing power does not come from people like Osborn but from a higher power is stated not only by him, but by all the faith healers known to me. The multitude of books which confirm this are, I'm sure, read by few people today.

With hope of your success,

Lad



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**You may receive more money for your home now-because you have less competition.*

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**January is traditionally a significant transfer month and you must be on the market to capture that market.*

**When you sell during the winter you have an opportunity to buy during the spring, when many homes are on the market.*

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Short Visit to Ergon; Victoria, B. C., Marlowe House
Ltd. 1971; (1971, Osborn) 181p.

Written with a boyish enthusiasm and idealism, this is a sociological novel in a framework of science fictional settings.

The ideas presented are pretty much in line with those of Edward Bellamy in Looking Backward. As in that book, the mentor, in this case on Ergon, a planet smaller than Earth but with a sun and two moons, is Dr. Zond who endeavors to make the narrator Ernie Chrisman feel at home when his spaceship lands out of control on this unknown planet.

Chris has lost his partner Bill by death, and wishes only to return to Earth and his sweetheart Karen. Despite his faithfulness, he is tempted by a beautiful girl who is the unloved devotee of a Satan-like bearded young man who plots to overthrow the older leaders of Ergon. He is guided by Dr. Zond and by Cybele, a pretty girl who is loved by a young man whom Chris admires for his high moral standard.

Chris writes a paper presenting his views concerning the possibility of better economic and social opportunities on Earth for people, and endeavors to incorporate some of the more admirable of the ideas he learns on Ergon.

Despite their ability to read thoughts, and their philosophy, something like Christian Science, which treats as the only reality the power of thought, and matter as an illusion, the setting of the Ergon civilization is quite similar to the probable near future of existence on Earth, with telephones, transportation, hotels, homes, and social events very closely resembling Earth's.

The plot is not significant or unusual, and the ideas presented do not go beyond those advocated by Bellamy. Dirke, the satanic rebel, kills his beautiful admirer, and escapes Ergon in the spaceship intended for Chris; Chris follows in a faster ship and endeavors to warn Dirke against attempting to land on Earth, but Dirke is apparently heedless and insane, and his ship crashes.

Not in any way an important novel, this is apparently a young man's first attempt at science fiction, and is better-written than some other Canadian fantasy novels I have read.

Osis, Karlis (Ph.D.) and Haraldsson, Erlander (Ph.D.)

At the Hour of Death; Introduction by Elisabeth Kübler-Ross
M.D.; New York, Avon Books (#35501) authors, 1977; appendices,
Index 244p.

Although both authors were Europeans, they both worked in India and the U. S. as Members of the ASPR to investigate for five years over 1000 cases of visions of the dying. They concluded that these were sufficient to prove the existence of personality surviving death, but recommend further research.

Their discussion and tables of statistics relating to their research took into consideration the views of skeptics. I was surprised that such an important book was published as a quality paperback rather than a hardcover book, but I certainly agree with the authors' conclusions.

This book is a careful analysis of deathbed visions and very suggestive of the nature of an afterlife better than our worldly existence.

Chester D. Cuthbert
March 29, 2001

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Oasis, Karlis (Ph.D.) and Haraldsson, Erlander
At the Hour of Death; Introduction by Elisabeth
M.D.; New York, Avon Books (#35201) authors, 1977; appendices,
244p.

MANITOBA

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Chester D. Guthbert
March 29, 2001

Osty, Eugene

Supernormal Faculties in Man: An Experimental Study; Translated from the French by Stanley de Brath, M.Inst.C.E.; London, Methuen & Co. Ltd. (1923) Index 245p.

I give this book a rating of higher importance than the review of it published in the S.P.R. Proceedings because it is the result of personal investigation and summarizes hundreds of case histories. Osty worked with Charles Richet and shares his view that at the date of publication, establishment of the facts should precede any attempt at hypotheses in explanation.

The case histories are detailed with explanations of the sequential events which proved predictions. Richet and Osty and J. Maxwell provide many instances of predictions fulfilled.

This is an important book which probably achieved limited circulation when it was published. My copy is ex-library.

Chester D. Cuthbert
August 22, 2001



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Oudard, George

John Law: A Fantastic Financier 1671-1729; Translated from the French by G. C. E. Masse; London, Jonathan Cape (1928); Frontispiece 380p.

This biography of the originator of the "Mississippi Bubble" is interesting, but not as clear as it might have been made concerning the financial schemes involved. Law apparently never lost faith in his "System", and justified himself right through to the time of his death.

Having killed a man in a duel over a woman, Law was condemned to hanging, but pardoned by the King. England was hated by him, and he spent seven years wandering in Europe before returning to Scotland, having developed his System to the point where he tried to have it adopted in England. He went to the Netherlands, then to France, where he obtained the backing of the Regent to implement his ideas. Forming the bank and amalgamating many of the exploration companies into the Mississippi scheme, he joined the scheme with the bank assets to comprise shares which he artificially inflated in value; issued edicts which depreciated the values of gold and silver and prohibited their use in favor of paper money issued by his bank.

Although it is unfortunate that more expert attention was not devoted to the financial operations, this is likely an important biographical source book, and gives a portrait of the times which is interesting and quite amazing. How Law could justify his maneuvering the value of the shares and consider himself justified in doing so, remains a mystery which I cannot fathom.

However, Law was a successful gambler, and evidently an intelligent and able promoter of his ideas. He had the personality and presence which enabled him to deal with the high officials and nobility, and was probably self-deceived.

Note: This book was published in the U. S. A. as:

The Amazing Life of John Law, The Man Behind the Mississippi Bubble; New York, Payson & Clarke Ltd., 1928, frontispiece and plate facing page 115, 362p.

Oursler, Will

The Healing power of Faith; New York, Hawthorn Books, Inc.
(1957, publishers); Appendices; Bibliography; Index 320p.

This son of Fulton Oursler spent two and a half years reading, travelling, interviewing as a reporter a wide range of the people and religions devoted to healing.

In addition to this the appendices list the Biblical miracles of healing, statistics relating to surveys of belief or cases and the exhaustive index makes this an essential reference.

Sketches of Christian Science, Hebrew belief, New Thought, Unity, Mormonism and small cults, with adequate warnings against dangers and with appreciation of Alcoholics Anonymous, Oursler accepts the good in a loving spirit and proclaims that love is the basic motive for belief in a greater power to do good.

This is far superior to any other modern survey I have read about faith healing, and confirms my belief that all systems of healing are basically supported by faith and that technicalities of treatment can be useful but are really unnecessary.

Absolute faith is sufficient to cure. Oursler admits the difficulty of achieving this.

Chester D. Cuthbert
September 3, 2000

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Ouspensky, P. D.

Strange Life of Ivan Osokin; New York and London, Holme Press Incorporated (1947, Ouspensky) 166p.

John Robert Colombo recommended that I should read this novel because of my fatalistic philosophy.

Osokin is of good family, but dilatory at his studies, and a day-dreamer. Expelled from school because of a prank indicating disrespect for authority, he determines to change his ways, but when invited to share the home of an uncle, falls in love with a girl who is said to have "got around" the uncle, who, discovering the amour, sends Osokin away. A 12-year period involving Osokin's squandering a fortune of 30,000 francs left him by a relative, at gambling, leaves him penniless and unable to follow a new love, the sister of a friend, to the Crimea. Osokin is so disgusted with his life that he seeks out a magician who agrees to make possible Osokin's re-living the years from 1890 to 1902 with full consciousness of the future, but with the warning that he would be unable, even with that consciousness, to change the events he would re-live.

Osokin, confident that he could control and improve his life, finds himself again a boy at military school, and, despite his foreknowledge of the consequences of his actions, re-living all his mistakes. To reinforce the philosophy he illustrates by the life of Osokin, Ouspensky reprints in full early chapters of the book near the end of the novel, thus demonstrating the repetitiveness of the wheel of life.

Returning to the magician, Osokin confesses his failure to improve his life on the second turn of the wheel. The magician insists that another trial would not improve matters and might even make them worse, and that Osokin might be unable subsequently to locate the magician or his house. Only by improving his own personality for the future would Osokin be able to make his ultimate fate worthwhile.

Although the repetitious chapters late in the novel do, in minor respects, differ slightly from the early narrative, it seems clear that Ouspensky believes that the choices we make, apparently by our free will, are actually the result of a plan pre-determined by our inherent characters. The novel ends with Osokin still dithering, and feeling that, if he were not there, everything would be exactly the same.

Written in the present tense, the book is an exercise in philosophical speculation.

Overholser, Wayne D.

The Killer Marshal; New York, The Macmillan Company,
1961 (Author) 153p.

Dan Morgan, operating a small ranch, is offered \$1000. for it by the richest rancher in the district, and told that he must accept or face the consequences. He refuses. Al Budd, who has heard that the Union Pacific will send a stub railway to the town, thus tripling at a minimum real estate values, has determined to marry Dan's girl, whose mother has been trying to match her daughter with him and owns most of the town's real estate.

The Wild Bunch, whose leader's life Dan once saved, blow into town occasionally and shoot up the place but have never been brought into line because they always pay for the damage. Nearly killing Mrs. Turner, who is saved by Dan, they are told by Dan that they will have to be more careful. Al Budd, knowing that even if he forces Dan to sell he must still somehow keep the Wild Bunch under control, gets the business men of the town and Mrs. Turner to join him in hiring a killer to do the job for him.

A beautiful red-haired young girl named Penny Williams has been Budd's mistress for two years, he having furnished a home for her in a nearby town. He had promised to marry her after the death of his wife, but instead decided to marry Ann Turner, though his passion was still for Penny. Penny was given \$500. quittance pay, but decided to revenge herself on Budd, so went to live in his town, becoming friendly with the killer marshal. Lee Yager falls in love with her, and asks her to marry him, not knowing that she had been Budd's mistress; and when telling Ann about herself and Budd fails to upset their arrangement, Penny determines to use the marshal, who kills Budd.

Budd had tried to have Dan beaten up by one of his men, but Dan had won the fight; he then sent his men to shoot Dan out of his home. Dan had sheltered Sharon and her weakling brother Billy Jones, had fallen in love with Sharon, but Billy finally admitted that he had been hired by Budd to kill Dan. Dan refused to praise Billy, who determined to face Yager and demand Yager's exercising his marshal's authority to protect Dan and Dan's ranch; but Yager kills Billy.

Dan finally accepts Sharon's advice to humble Yager, and with the help of townsmen, all of whom fear Yager, disarms him, and while he is shaken, accepts Yager's challenge to hand combat. Shorn of his guns, Yager's power is gone, and Dan makes him crawl to the stage which is to take him out of town with Penny, who immediately despises him. Dan considers himself lucky to have escaped marrying Ann Turner, and to have found Sharon.

Competently and concisely written, this is the new kind of western which was probably instituted by Ernest Haycox and Luke Short. It is worth studying as an example of brevity and hewing to the story line.

The World's One Hundred Best Short Stories (in ten volumes), New York and London, Funk & Wagnalls Company (1927)
 (See my detailed note for the contents of volume 9)
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Note: 10 should be 6, thus making each successive one higher.

The World's One Hundred Best Short Stories (in ten volumes): Volume 9: Ghosts; New York and London, Funk & Wagnalls Company (1927) 212p.

Contents

1. The Red Room	H. G. Wells	7*
2. The Legend of Sleepy Hollow	Washington Irving	21*
3. The Two Drovers	Sir Walter Scott	62*
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5. The Man Without a Country	Edward Everett Hale	110
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7. Mateo Falcone	Prosper Merimee	163
8. The Queer Scare	James Hopper	179*
9. The Queen of Spades	Alexander Sergeievitch Poushkin	191*
10. Quality	John Galsworthy	204

Four of these ten stories are not fantasy. #3 is not primarily fantasy, but has second-sight as a factor, and is an excellent story. #4 is beautiful.

Owen, A. R. G.

Hysteria, Hypnosis and Healing: The Work of J.-M. Charcot;
London, Dennis Dobson; (1971, author); Illustrated; References;
Index 252p.

As head of the giant Salpetriere sanitarium Charcot had a great many women patients to observe in gaining his reputation as a neurologist, the greatest of his time. Although mistaken in his view that only hysterics could be hypnotised, his sound scientific knowledge and reliance on facts rather than theories as true science established his openmindedness.

Although only a minor part of this volume is devoted to the occult, hynotism and psychical research, the index is useful in gaining access to information. Owen feels that emphasis on the Nancy school has prejudiced many writers against acknowledging Charcot's achievements, and he has done a good job in portraying Charcot as scientist and citizen.

Chester D. Cuthbert
November 22, 2001

Owen, A. R. G. (Ph.D.)

Psychic Mysteries of the North: Discoveries from the Maritime Provinces and Beyond; New York, Evanston, San Francisco, London, Harper & Row (1975, Owen); Bibliographic References to Chapters; Index 243p.

The author is said to be Canada's foremost psychical researcher, Director of the New Horizons Research Foundation in Toronto, Ontario.

First published in Canada under the title Psychic Mysteries of Canada, this book is a general survey of parapsychology, with instances drawn primarily from Canadian literature on the subject. It is well-written, competent, and although apology is offered for failure to cover work done by other research groups in Canada such as the Hamilton group in Winnipeg, perhaps 20% of the text outlines original research and accomplishments of the Toronto group. Detailed scientific reports of this work were previously published in the group's publications.

This is a positive contribution to the advancement of parapsychology. Some interesting experimental work is described, clarifying the facts of the "human aura", showing that a group of mainly non-psychic people can produce PK phenomena and create an allegedly artificial intelligence or personality (the 'Philip' phenomena), and in Chapter 9, the enzyme breakthrough.

Chapter 19 is positive regarding Uri Geller's metal-bending phenomena; Chapter 16 on telepathic brain-waves.

I regret not having read this book at an earlier date so that I could recommend it while it was comparatively easy to obtain copies.

Conjuring Up Philip: An Adventure in Psychokinesis, by the author's wife Iris M. Owen and Margaret Sparrow (Don Mills, Ontario, Fitzhenry & Whiteside Limited, (1976) is the detailed account of the 'Philip' phenomena mentioned above, and I shall be reading this book as soon as time permits.

Rwen, Eric R.

"Dr. Zollinoff's Revenge"

The Modern Publishing Company

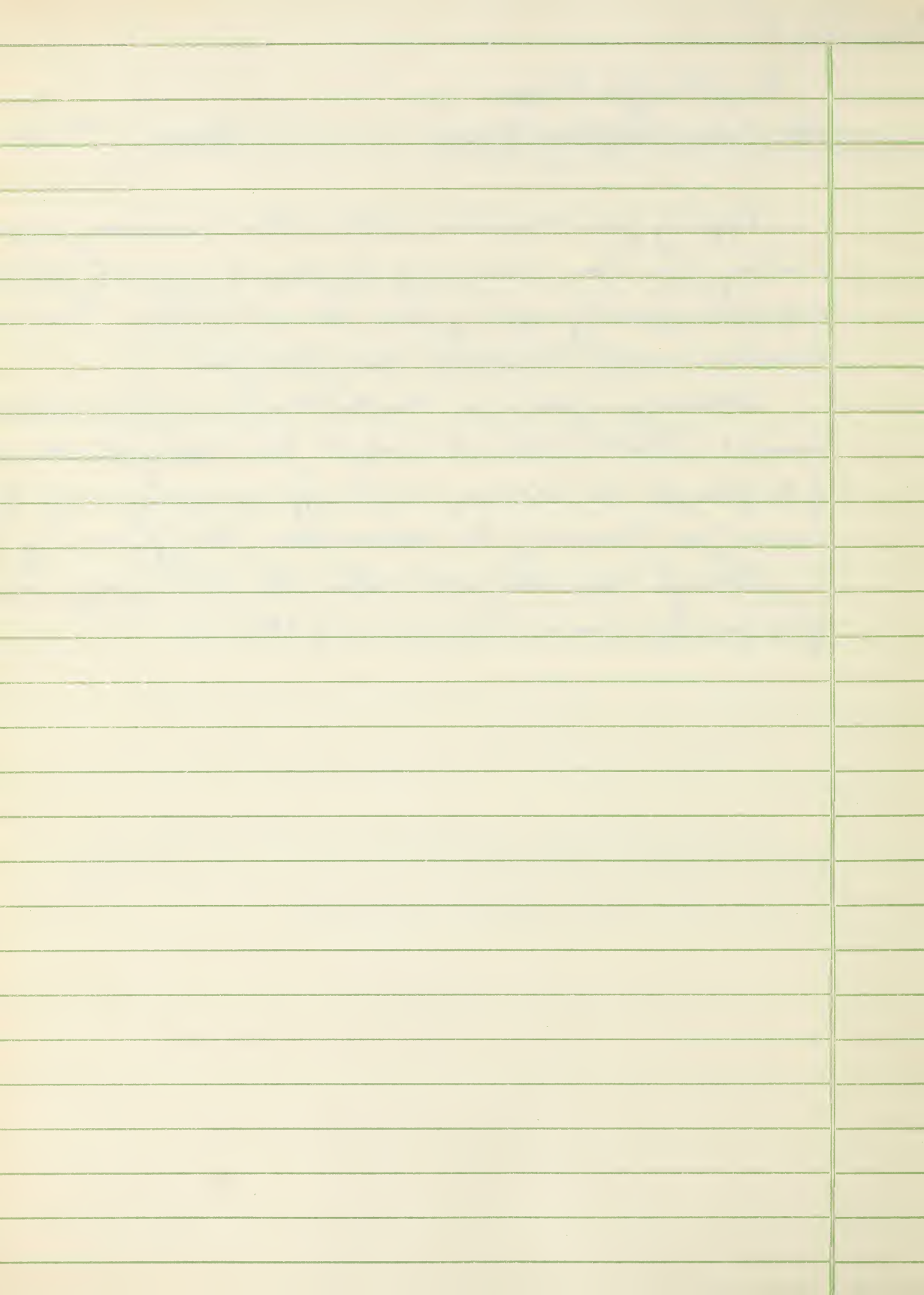
London

7-254 p.p.

Suffering from compulsive hallucinations involving sleep-walking, Joan Hane, married only two years, is in failing health and quite apparently suffering from some evil visitation. Her husband consults an occultist, Dr. Zollinoff, whom Joan fears.

Scotland Yard places an occultist 'Mr. Sen, and his mediumistic assistant "Phidella del Rio" to investigate. Joan had rejected the suit of Dr. Zollinoff's son, who died, and Zollinoff was seeking revenge by causing Joan to visualize the death and blame herself for causing it.

Although reasonably well-written, the novel displays some of the faults of a novice writer, and is of little value.



Owen, Frank

Between the Covers; New York, The Macaulay Company,
(1938, Publishers) 248p.

This is a light romantic novel, illogical and inconsistent in structure and content as is much of Owen's work.

Althea Lorry has won \$5000. for a novel and is visiting New York with her niece Kay to meet the publisher and have a good holiday. Wishing Kay to meet eligible young men, she suggests that Kay pose as the author of the book. Meeting the publisher, Althea is impressed by him as a prospective romance for Kay; but Kay immediately admits that she is not the author of the book, takes a job in a bookshop where she meets a bohemian playwright to whom she is attracted, and likes very well the proprietor, who is separated from his wife, but still in love with her, and going blind from eye-strain.

Althea falls in love with an assistant in the bookshop; Kay is more attracted to the playwright than to the publisher, but her aunt continues to favor the publisher. Kay plays one against the other, but it is pretty clear from the start that she will choose the playwright.

Much of the book is devoted to dialogue in the spirit of persiflage, the characters are rather sentimentally attractive, and the bookshop proprietor when he finally goes blind is taken by his friends to his wife's home where she attempts to disguise herself as a nurse. She has purchased his personal favorite books from the shop and has them available to read to him; but he soon penetrates the situation and admits that with his wife's love and attention he is recovering his sight.

Most of the scenes are in the bookshop; Gone with the Wind is the bestseller; Mirror of a Mage is sought by a customer. Kirby, the playwright, says on page 198: "One of the first stories I ever wrote was called, 'The Pale Pink Color of Chinese Porcelain'." On pages 227-228, an outline of the book The House Mother is summarized by the bookshop proprietor to "Nurse Jorrocks" as a novel he read years ago. Such passages are comparable to others which Owen scatters through his various books, relating stories and characters to others of his writings.

This is probably the least consequential of Owen's books, but helps to understand the sentimental phase of his personality.

Owen, Frank

Della-Wu, Chinese Courtezan and Other Oriental Love
Tales; New York, The Lantern Press, 1931 (Owen) 313p.

Contents

1. Della Wu, Chinese Courtezan	3
2. The Fan	31*
3. Song of the Indian Night	41*
4. The Dust of God	77
5. Wind Blown Chrysanthemum	137*
6. The Well	149*
7. Bali Boo	163
8. The Fountain	221*
9. The King	233
10. Magnoon	243*
11. My China Girl	

#2 and #8 were reprinted in The Porcelain Magician.

All stories marked with an asterisk are fantasy.

Owen, Frank

The House Mother; New York, The Lantern Press, Inc.,
(1929, Owen) 300p.

Scobee Trent's mother died in giving birth to him, and he identified the house which had been built for her by her husband as his mother. When his father re-married, he refused to permit his step-mother to enter the attic where his mother's painting, including an unfinished self-portrait, were kept. His father was a farmer, dedicated to the soil and to working upon it; his step-mother was similar, a widow whose husband had frozen to death in a blizzard.

Scobee fell in love with the sister of his best friend. They went to war together, and his friend was killed, and Scobee was blinded. Striving to conceal his disability, he was aided by the aged chinaman who had been his "true" father from infancy, and who had told him fairy tales and shown him the poetic beauty of nature. His fiancée on discovering his blindness asked him to marry her, and the book ends with the possibility of a surgeon curing him.

During training, Scobee and his friend were encamped at Newport News, Va. There are two or three incidents in the story which could be considered visionary, but this is not primarily a fantasy novel. It is more a sentimental attempt at recapturing childhood and the atmosphere of war which was the turning point of so many lives.

Interesting, but not important, though it does show the author as a lover of beauty and without the cynicism which often entered his later work.

Owen, Frank

A Husband for Kutani; New York, Lee Furman, Inc. (1938,
Owen) 199p.

Contents

1. A Husband for Kutani	11
2. Doctor Shen Fu	75*
3. The Book of Love	121
4. Five Merchants Who Met in a Tea-House	183

#2 was reprinted in The Porcelain Magician.

Owen, Frank

The Porcelain Magician: A Collection of Oriental Fantasies; Illustrated by Frances E. Dunn; New York, The Gnome Press, (1948, Owen) 256p.

Contents

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1. The Fan	11
2. The Inverted House	21
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10. The Blue City	173
11. The Fountain	189
12. Monk's Blood	199
13. The Golden Hour of Kwoh Fan	225
14. The Wind That Tramps The World	237

This is the largest collection of Owen's fantasies, all excepting #2, #4, #8, #10, and #12 having been reprinted from earlier collections of his stories.

Owen, Frank

The Purple Sea: More Splashes of Chinese Color; New
York, The Lantern Press, 1930 (Owen) 153p.

Contents

1. The Golden Hour of Kwoh Fan	1*
2. The Purple Sea	12*
3. The Silent Trees	30*
4. The Lantern-Maker	44*
5. Gobi Interlude	53
6. The Perfumes of Chow Wan	78*
7. The Quaint Manuscript of Wu Wang	90
8. The Rice Merchant	100*
9. Love Letters of a Little House	114*
10. The Tinkle of the Camel's Bell	128*
11. The Old Man Who Swept the Sky	145*

#1, #2, #4, #8 and #11 were reprinted in The Porcelain Magician.

All stories marked with an asterisk are fantasy.

Owen, Frank

The Scarlet Hill; New York, Carlyle House, 1941; 367p.

Following this novel, on a page of acknowledgments, Owen indicates that his material has been drawn from a thousand sources. Although he succeeds in portraying the atmosphere of China in complete isolation from the rest of the world, he fails to make his novel an important one. As in many of his other novels and stories, his characters are inconsistent and unconvincing.

The story follows the fortunes of Yang Kuei-Fei, whose beauty and graces attracted the notice of the Emperor Ming Huang. Making her his concubine and favorite, Ming neglected his duties of empire; ultimately betrayed by An Lu-Shan, a buffoon of military might and of gross animal attraction, who coveted Yang Kuei-Fei and promised to make her his empress, the old Emperor finally sought the advice of a medium in his search for Yang Kuei-Fei, who had acquiesced to the demands of a mob that she accept death. The Scarlet Hill (of Immortality) is achieved by the Emperor and Yang Kuei-Fei as they enter the city of everlasting peace.

The spiritualistic conclusion and minor fantasy incidents in the story would probably qualify the book for a fantasy collection, although it is a historical novel primarily.

Yang Kuei-Fei is originally given by her family to the son of Ming Huang, who relinquishes her to his father despite his continued love for her. Yang Kuei-Fei appears to welcome the change because of her personal ambition; the Emperor's chief eunuch, who is also his principal adviser, senses her liason with An Lu-Shan and distrusts the latter, but does not interfere.

An Lu-Shan, though he defeats the Emperor's forces, is smitten with a disease which blinds him, and feels that he has won in vain when he learns that Yang Kuei-Fei is dead.

Poets, astrologers, magicians, and other characters play their parts in the development of the story, and the usual emphasis is placed on flowers, dancing, singing, and art in the cultural life of the court. I cannot help feeling, however, that the ending was contrived—unless it follows the legend of the Emperor Ming Huang, a point I have not checked.

Like Russian novels, the names of the characters change according to their status and relationships, and it is at times not easy to keep track of them by their names and actions. The several parts of this novel are disparate enough to detract from its unity, and I found it difficult to maintain interest.

This novel is not important in the fantasy field.

Owen, George, and Sims, Victor

Science and the Spook: Eight Strange Cases of Haunting
New York, Garrett Publications (1971, Authors) 218p.

The authors, a scientist and a newspaperman, investigated the eight cases covered in the second part of the book and whose background is outlined by Sims in the preceding 3 chapters following the general comments by Owen about psychological research in the earlier chapters.

As an elementary survey of the subject of apparitions and hauntings, possibly of poltergeist cases, this is an interesting, if unconvincing, book. It is popular in its presentation, and of value because it represents original investigations and the suggested solutions current in 1966.

Although no index is provided, it is probable that newspapers would have carried several accounts of these cases, so my clippings should be reviewed.

Owen, Iris M. (with Margaret Sparrow)

Conjuring Up Philip: An Adventure in Psychokinesis;
Toronto/Montreal/Winnipeg/Vancouver, Fitzhenry & Whiteside
(1976, Owen); Bibliography 217p.

A. R. G. Owen, husband of the author, provides an introduction to this book, and is correct in saying it is "one of the most unusual and interesting books ever printed".

A group of people interested in psychical phenomena in the Toronto, Ontario area decided to have one of their number write an outline of a fictional story featuring a young man living in England between the years 1624 and 1654, married against his own inclinations to a frigid but beautiful wife and falling in love with another girl. Their purpose was to see if they could, without the aid of a medium, create this young man as a personality capable, with the combined psychic energy of the circle of sitters, of causing physical phenomena similar to mediumistic.

For a year, their efforts were unrewarded. They then read of a methodology used by K. J. Batchelder and Colin Brookes-Smith, and adopted it with positive results. Weekly meetings enabled the group to become intimately friendly and they were successful in obtaining raps, the movement of the seance table, and the creation of Philip as a personality so familiar to them that they treated him as if he were one of their number, though they addressed him as though he controlled the table. They learned that although he responded to their questions about him and his fictional life, he did not reveal any knowledge beyond that known to members of the group. The group numbered more than eight at first, but was reduced to a core group of that number for most sittings; but after many sittings it was found that four people were sufficient to produce phenomena, and that any four out of the eight were effective.

The importance of this book is the fact that an entirely fictional character, created by the sitters, produced the kind of phenomena characteristic of spiritualistic seances. A film was made and is available for viewing; the raps and the movements of the table are on film; and careful records of the entire experiment were kept.

Dr. Joel Whitton, Vice Chairman of the Toronto Society for Psychical Research, and a member of the Medical Committee, was associated with the phenomena from the beginning, and contributed Chapter 17 of this volume. He and Dr. Owen acted as monitors and advisers to the group.

Although I have seen no more recent reports of this matter, it was considered to be an ongoing experiment, and some of the future plans for experiments were outlined.

Chester D. Cuthbert,
November 23, 1989.

Owen, J. J.

Psychography: Marvelous Manifestations of Psychic Power
Given through the Mediumship of Fred P. Evans known as the "Independent Slate-Writer"; San Francisco, The Hicks-Judd Co.;(1893,
F. P. Evans); Illustrated 214p.

Attractively and ornately printed and bound, my copy of this book is smoke and water damaged.

After working at sea, Evans developed mediumistic powers and Owen as publisher of the Golden Gate newspaper became his manager and publicist even during travel to Australia. There Evans had an accident which with weather problems left him ill during most of the trip, subject to both praise and skepticism from reporters of various newspapers who were invited to witness his phenomena.

These were mainly messages from spirits impressed in various colors on slates inaccessible to Evans, and in such little time as to give rise to suspicion that the messages were prepared in advance of the sittings. Many public demonstrations were given and Evans accepted challenges which were withdrawn.

Portraits of famous people and relatives of sitters were also impressed on the slates; A. Russel Wallace and his brother sat for the phenomena and declared them genuine.

Assuming that this account is authentic, some psychic explanation of supernormal phenomena is necessary; the spiritistic is easiest.

Chester D. Cuthbert
December 16, 2001

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Owen, Robert Dale

The Debatable Land Between This World and the Next with narrative illustrations; New York, G. W. Carleton & Co. 1872 (1871, publishers; Index; 542p.

Addressed specifically to the Protestant Clergy, this book was intended to warn them about weaknesses and errors in their teachings and to draw their attention to current spiritualistic events which they should consider as supporting the Bible.

His personal investigations were detailed and the time he spent in reading religious books was exhaustive.

A great part of this book provided me with information that would probably be new to many Protestant ministers today. This book is so extremely well written and important that it deserves reprinting.

Chester D. Cuthbert
July 26, 2003



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Owen, Robert Dale

Footfalls on the Boundary of Another World. With narrative illustrations; Philadelphia, J. B. Lippincott & Co., 1860; Appendix; Index; authors consulted; 528p.

My copy of this book fell apart while I was reading it and I consequently feel that few copies have survived.

Owen spent years consulting the literature and experimenting with mediums and taking careful notes which became the basis for this book. Published 22 years before the SPR was founded, it is a wonderful and important introduction to psychic research.

Owen lived a very full and influential life and how he found the time to compile this volume makes me wonder. Although most of the cases and authorities are repeated in other references, this book is so well written and presented that it deserves reprinting.

Chester D. Cuthbert
July 26, 2003



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Oxenham, John

Out of the Body: A Plain Man's Parable of the Life to Come;
Compiled by Himself and His Daughter Erica; London/New York/Tor-
onto; Longmans Green and Co. (1941); 4th impr., 1942) 117p

In the preface to this book, classified as miscellaneous on his listed works, Oxenham says: "We have no connection whatever with supernaturalism, spiritualism, or psychic research."

Deeply impressed by a vivid dream, he embodied it in a story entitled "...Or Out of the Body", which appeared in The Methodist Recorder. This book is an expansion of the dream.

Because he disclaimed association with psychical matters, I believe this book deserves special study. It fully supports the spiritist view of the afterlife, and is intended to console people who sustained the loss of family and friends during the second world war.

It is not clear to what extent this book was based on the dream, or whether the dream could be termed an "out of the body experience". Oxenham had been very ill, and died only three days after this book was completed.

As an affirmation of faith in survival of human personality, it encourages living up to one's finest potential and promises a felicitous future world, reunited with familiar people and things.

Even the language used to express this vision matches that of many books written by spiritualists.

Since the author called it a parable, I am classifying it as fiction like his other books The Cedar Box and The Man Who Would Save the World.

Oyle, Dr. Irving

The Healing Mind: You Can Cure Yourself without Drugs;
Foreword by Stanley Krippner, Ph.D.; New York, Pocket Books
#80535, July, 1978; 1975, Celestial Arts, Millbrae, California
Footnotes, Bibliography; Index 191p.

The author not only denounces the extensive and growing use of drugs, but warns of their dangers. He promotes mental healing and alternative methods, so much so that this book confuses rather than educates, since much is technical without background information.

However, he mentions Olga Worrall and Arthur Koestler and the index is useful for reference.

Chester D. Cuthbert
June 14, 2000

